

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 AID-20 DPW-01 RSR-01 /139 W
----- 114295

P R 180350 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3322

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL JEC PARIS

DAO SAIGON

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 10869

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR VS

SUBJECT: ICCS HELICOPTER RECEIVES GROUND FIRE NEAR AN LOC

1. TWO ICCS HELICOPTERS RECEIVED GROUND FIRE BETWEEN 1400-1430, JUNE 17, WHILE ON RESUPPLY FLIGHT TO AN LOC, ACCORDING TO INITIAL REPORTS TELEPHONED TO CANDEL OPERATIONS CENTER SAIGON. CHOPPERS SAID TO BE FLYING ACCORDING TO PRG- APPROVED FLIGHT PLAN WHICH ALLOWED FOR HELICOPTERS TO FOLLOW ROAD (QL -13) TO AN LOC AT ALTITUDE OF 1,000 METERS WEATHER PERMITTING. SMALL ARMS FIRE REPORTEDLY CAME FROM TWO LOCATIONS 15 KILOMETERS APART. AT SECOND LOCATION APPROXIMATELY 10 KILOMETERS SOUTH OF AN LOC, PILOTS SAY THEY HEARD BURSTS OF AK-47 FIRE AND SECOND CHOPPER IN LINE WAS STRUCK. THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES AND BOTH HELICOPTERS LANDED SAFELY IN AN LOC WHERE IT WAS REVEALED ONE ROUND HAS PASSED THROUGH MAIN ROTOR BLADE OF SECOND CHOPPER.

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2. ICCS PROTESTED IMMEDIATELY TO PRG WHICH GAVE VERBAL ASSURANCE THAT CHOPPERS COULD SAFELY FLY OUT. HOWEVER, ICCS MILITARY COMMITTEE HEAD GEN MCALPINE REFUSES TO AUTHORIZE RETURN FLIGHT OF HELICOPTERS UNTIL PRG GIVES WRITTEN GUARANTEES OF SAFETY WHICH MCALPINE EXPECTS TO RECEIVE SHORTLY. IN THE MEANTIME, CHOPPERS, CREWS, AND PASSENGERS INCLUDING ICCS ROTATION PERSONNEL AND TWO CBS NEWSMEN WHO WERE ON STRUCK CHOPPER ARE SITTING TIGHT IN AN LOC.

3. COMMENT: THIS WAS THE FIRST ICCS HELICOPTER FLIGHT TO AN LOC SINCE ICCS DEPLOYMENT APRIL 5. ICCS HAD BEEN USING JMC CHOPPERS FOR RESUPPLY UNTIL IT JUST CONCLUDED FLIGHT AGREEMENT WITH PRG PROVIDING FOR ICCS FLIGHTS TO AN LOC EVERY TWO DAYS. FLIGHT AGREEMENT SETS NO AIR CORRIDOR WIDTH BUT INSTRUCTS PILOTS ONLY TO FOLLOW ROAD. ICCS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT THE AGREEMENT AFTER THIS INCIDENT.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition Remarks:
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30 JUN 2005

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Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980212
Subject: ICCS HELICOPTER RECEIVES GROUND FIRE NEAR AN LOC
TAGS: MARR
To: BIEN HOA
BUDAPEST
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SECSTATE WASHDC

WARSAW

Type: TE

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